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DE RUEHFR #1771 2661507  
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4358  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS PARIS 001771

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EIND](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [EAIR](#) [PREL](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: AIRBUSQSYRIA TALKS ON AIRCRAFT LEASE

[¶1.](#) (U) This is an action cable. See paragraph 3.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) Recent press reporting has speculated on the possible sale or lease of Airbus aircraft to Syria's state carrier. While the GOF has downplayed the reports, speculation has centered on ways in which a deal could be structured to sidestep U.S. sanctions, possibly through lease and purchase of several Airbus aircrafts through a private third-party.

[¶3.](#) (SBU) We will meet or encounter EADS and Airbus officials on several occasions over the next two to three weeks. Embassy requests specific guidance on the restrictions imposed by U.S. legislation on sales to Syria, including as relates to possible third-party lease agreements.

Stapleton